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Vol. 45,
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Feb. 3, 2014

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A man in a dark jacket and trousers stands at a wooden podium on the left side of a large lecture hall. He is gesturing with his right hand towards a large projection screen on the right wall. The screen displays a satellite image of a river delta, showing a complex network of water channels and land areas in shades of blue and brown. The lecture hall has a curved ceiling and walls made of large, light-colored panels. A long, vertical light fixture is visible on the left wall. The floor is polished and reflects the ambient light.

See **TAR SANDS** on page 4

A group of people are seated at long tables in a room with large windows, attending a presentation. A man in a dark suit and blue shirt stands at the front, facing the audience. Behind him is a large projection screen displaying the GRC ASCT logo and the word "Questions" in a large, stylized font. The audience consists of people of various ages, some looking towards the speaker and others looking down at papers or devices on the tables. The room has a modern feel with wooden paneling and large windows on the left side.

See **DIRECTION** on page 4

Officials discuss active shooter policies

Sam Hill
Managing Editor

The USM community has been thinking more about safety than usual in the aftermath of the armed standoff in Gorham on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

The number of school shootings has been on the rise throughout the U.S., with approximately 10 incidents recorded in 2012 and 28 in 2013. A school shooting is an act of gun violence taking place on a high school or college campus on or near school grounds while students were present. In January alone, 2014 has already seen approximately 11 school shootings. While the recent incident at USM ended peacefully, it has more people at USM looking at how they can keep the community safe.

"I think Mainers sort of live in a bubble," said undeclared freshman Christopher Wright. "A lot of people don't think as much about dangerous situations, because they don't happen as often up here."

The number of school shootings in the U.S. this month has opened the doors for conversation about USM's emergency response plans and whether the community would be prepared for similar or worst-case scenario situations.

"Unfortunately, we live in a world where these things can happen anywhere and at any time," said director of Public Affairs Robert Caswell. "We need to be as prepared as we possibly can be."

Right now, USM uses e2Campus, a third-party emergency notification system, to send safety alerts when there is a dangerous situation on or

near either campus. It also sends out emails to the university email accounts of students and staff.

"It's a really great system," said director of Public Safety Kevin Conger. "It literally takes just a few minutes to sign up, and students can choose what kind of alerts they want to receive."

Through e2Campus, anyone can sign up for alerts on emergency situations or serious weather conditions, and there is a separate storm line for the Lewiston-Auburn campus. Because alerts are sent to personal phones, students are required to sign up to receive these alerts.


"I signed up for the alerts within the first week I was here at school," said freshman psychology major Allison Tucker. "I totally forget about it until there's a snowstorm and get that text that says no school, then it's back to bed for me."

Usually that's how the service is used, to inform students of dangerous road conditions due to the weather and sometimes of cancellations. But on the night of the standoff, three texts were sent over the course of the 5 hour event, telling students to avoid the downtown area. However, the text messages only informed students that there was an emergency situation and that they should avoid the downtown area.


"I didn't really know what was happening from the university messages," said Tucker, "but, obviously, I just jumped on the computer and looked up the local news coverage."

"As dangerous as the situation was for the student inside the house and the law enforcement officers who responded, students in the


Safety Guidelines for Active Shooter Situations on Campus




Try to remain calm. Proceed to a room that can be locked or barricaded.




Turn off the lights.




Keep yourself out of sight, stay away from windows and take adequate cover/protection.




Warn other faculty, staff and students on your way to take immediate shelter.




Close the blinds.




Call 207-780-5211 or 911



Lock and barricade doors and/or windows.



Turn off radios or other devices that emit sound. Silence cell phones.



Wait patiently until a uniformed police officer or a university official provides an "all clear."

Ellen Spahn / Design Assistant

The text is a condensed version of Public Safety's safety guidelines for an active shooter situation on campus which are available in full online.

surrounding area were safe, so we didn't want to alarm anyone," said Caswell.

"It wasn't super concerning," said sophomore pre-med major Joseph Walter.

Cogner noted that it is important to remember that in emergencies, like a situation in which there is an active shooter on campus, the person causing the scene will likely have access to the information law enforcement is releasing, so they need to be discreet with what information they make available to the public.

"Our goal is to make people aware of a situation and aware that they need to avoid it," said Cogner. "Not being journalists, we don't have the need to get the story out there, [we] just need to relay information to make sure people steer clear so law enforcement can do what they need to do."

Similar messages were sent out via email to resident students on the Gorham campus and students who were involved with Greek Life. Residential life staff spanned across campus, making sure that all students in the resident halls and campus public buildings were aware as well.

"It felt like it was being very well contained," said sophomore biochemistry major Chris Fitzgerald. "Residential staff went into overdrive to make sure people felt like they were protected."

According to coordinator of Student Activities Dan Welter, communication went as well as it could have, and the only minor issue was

that the university did not know how to contact non-resident students who live nearby in the town of Gorham who would have benefited from the information. As the system is set up now, the university would have had to email the listserv for all students to contact that smaller selection.

"We're currently looking into our mailing lists and how we can make them more efficient," said Welter.

There is no way to contact just off-campus Gorham residents, and Caswell said they did not want to alert every USM student by sending out an alert to the all student listserv, so those students were left with local news coverage for information.

See SAFETY on page 5

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Students to urge Board to go green



Randy Hazelton / Multimedia Editor

Shaun Carland is one of a group of students who will be addressing the University of Maine System Board of Trustees at their next meeting to urge them to divest money from environmentally unfriendly companies.

Heather Guaciaro
Contributor

Students have come together with the help of the Office of Sustainability at USM and support from the Student Senate to bring the issue of Divestment to the floor at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 27.

In March of 2013, the Student Senate approved a resolution to express the student body's desire to divest the University of Maine System endowment from any of the top two hundred publicly traded fossil fuel companies. The measure was passed by a 10 to two margin.

Divestment is the direct opposite of investment. In this case, it's a call, by the students of USM, for the im-

mediate freezing of all new assets invested in top 200 fossil fuel companies and their remaining endowments within the next five years. "We, as the students of UMaine school system, are demanding that the future which we our investing in be protected and that our universities take an active role in doing so," said Iris SanGiovanni, a freshman political science major and one of the organizers of the small team of USM and Orono students heading this movement.

"Climate change is a political problem, that we need to address on a political level," said junior women and gender studies and environmen-

See **DIVEST** on page 6

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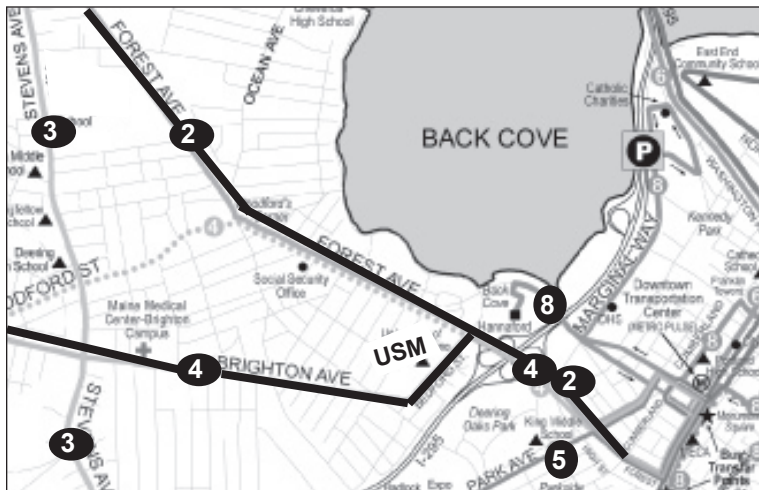
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From TAR SANDS on page 1
protests over use of the pipeline, wrote: “Our commitment to public safety and the environment continues to be recognized by leading industry organizations in the U.S and Canada.” They recognized that there would be debate over the use of the pipeline and that they would “welcome opportunities for open discussion that are fact based and transparent.” They said they would be doing this work with the pipeline

From DIRECTION on page 1
When USM announced the roll-out of its new Direction Package in late September and the formation of the Direction Package Advisory Board in October, neither step was intended to continue indefinitely, and as January draws to a close, the scheduled Advisory Board meetings are nearing an end.

The advisory board has met twelve times since its creation, and is scheduled to meet five more times, with the last meeting taking place on Feb. 28. However, as President Kalikow stressed during last Friday’s meeting, “I think it’s really important for everyone to know we’re not going to get there in a week.” The end of the advisory board meetings will culminate in the synthesis of information the group has gathered and evaluated on enrollment patterns, state and national trends in higher education and different ideas about working with the university’s limited budget, which will then be presented to the President’s Council for further consideration.

Since the advisory board set up sub-groups to focus on specific issues at the Nov. 22 meeting, a significant portion of the board’s meetings have been devoted to group work. Student Body President Kelsea Dunham told the Free Press that in upcoming meetings, the smaller groups will make reports out to the group at large so the advisory board can make its recommendations to the adminis-

with as much caution towards the environment as possible.

Many students were at the event in support of 350 Maine. First year economics major Alanna Larrivee and first year political science major Iris Sanoiovanni both had comments to make about tar sands. “The environment is of utmost importance. You only get one, and if that gets tarnished, we don’t have a backup,” said Larrivee. Sanoiovanni had been involved with the debate over tar sands since a meeting

tration. The sub-group Dunham has been working on is focused on the vision for the future of the university.

“The first subgroup is focusing on a distinct USM identity so that we can focus our resources and become widely recognized and appreciated as a truly integral part of the region and state,” said Direction Package Advisory Board co-chairs President Theo Kalikow and physics Professor Jerry LaSala in an email to faculty and staff about the future of the Direction Package on Jan. 28.

There are two other groups as well. “The second subgroup, C.O.R.E (Creating Operational Responsibility and Excellence), is looking at how USM can reduce costs and increase revenues in FY 15 [fiscal year 2015] and beyond, while adding value to the student experience. This group is also surveying USM constituencies on a number of topics to inform their work,” wrote Kalikow and LaSala.

The third, which Dunham said focuses on the university’s signature programing, is described in Kalikow and LaSala’s email as working on ways to qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate academic programs at USM.

Before the small group work commenced in last Friday’s meeting, the advisory board held open conversations with two invited speakers; George Mehaffy, vice president for academic leadership and change at the American Association of State Colleges and

she attended last year. “It doesn’t bring about just environmental injustice, but social injustice as well. We, as a society, can’t stand for it,” said Sanoiovanni.

Not everyone except the PMPL is against the use of tar sands, however. Many people can also see the benefits of using them. “Tar sands may cost a lot of money, but it’s not going to be our money, it’s going to be the company that is moving the tar sands,” said first year undeclared Stephen Colby. When asked about

Universities, and Richard Dunfee, the director of the AASCU’s grant resource center.

Mehaffy and Dunfee were invited to USM as guests of the Faculty Commons. “They did a presentation on the challenges and opportunities facing higher ed across the nation on the light of serious fiscal and enrollment problems,” said Executive Director of Public Affairs Bob Caswell. The members of the Direction Package Advisory Board were invited to attend the presentation, and then Mehaffy and Dunfee attended Friday’s Advisory Board meeting. The presentation to the Faculty Commons will be posted on the Faculty Commons website later in the week, Caswell said.

At the Direction Package Advisory Board meeting, Dunfee discussed a series of funding opportunities through the AASCU, and Mehaffy delved deeper into his own and the AASCU’s educational philosophies. According to Mehaffy, one of the problems with universities as they are traditionally organized, USM included, is that there is a division of leadership and a lack of unity. He cited strict departmental delineations as a source of weakness. “I do think if you’re really going to be serious about this stuff, if you think about what Rich was talking about, the funding opportunities, they’re all interdisciplinary.”

This lack of unity, which, he said, comes as much from the diffusion of power created by unions as by departmental divisions, re-

sults in an unevenness of quality avoided by organizations that run on a more proscribed, corporate model, like the Cheesecake Factory or the University of Phoenix. Kalikow objected to the comparison to the University of Phoenix, countering Mehaffy’s point about the lack of unions at Phoenix resulting in fewer conflicting voices.

“They don’t have any full-time faculty, either. They don’t have any anything, except they make a lot of money for their investors, and that’s not the model we want,” Kalikow said.

Mehaffy’s philosophy, which calls for an educational standard to be upheld across the board at a university, drew several objections from faculty and staff who argued that corporate comparisons were perhaps not entirely applicable to the university setting. Mehaffy asserted, “It’s easy to do an honors program; it’s not easy to do an honors program for everyone.”

Mehaffy concluded by stressing the need for the best thing for students and for the institution to be at the forefront of any educational innovation.

“What’s best for the students has to be a top priority, we’ve heard that from the Vision Committee,” Kalikow returned.

Mehaffy told the Free Press that he feels like he always learns something when he visits schools to speak. At USM, he said that he’d been asked a very thoughtful question by a student, which he was still

support on both sides. When asked why we do not turn to the use of alternative energy sources,” Voorhees said, “in a lot of these forms of energy, they require a lot more money up front,” meaning that even though renewable resources pay off in the long run, they cost a lot of money to research and enact now, whereas oil is cheaper now, and we have it now.

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considering the answer to. Mehaffy said the student had noted that the state is paying less of a percentage of the operating costs of public universities, and that students are paying a higher percentage in tuition. “The question was, does the source of funding for an institution change the way an institution operates, and I think the answer is that it does,” Mehaffy said.

“From my perspective, I thought it was a very interesting experience, we had very good conversations,” Mehaffy said.


Mehaffy said he was impressed by the thoughtfulness of the work the university is doing to address the budget shortfall.

ing USM’s budget shortfall by Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell and as work that deserves the university community’s support by University of Maine System Chancellor James Page. Over the course of the meetings scheduled for the month of February, and the actions which will follow them, the result of that process will be revealed.

“We do not anticipate that the final product will have all t’s crossed and i’s dotted. This would be an unrealistic expectation. We do expect the recommendations will provide sufficient guidance upon which we can inform and guide decisions,” said Kalikow and LaSala in the Jan. 28 email.

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From **SAFETY** on page 2

"I think there are always going to be circumstances where we might not be able to reach everybody," said Caswell. "But if the situation had been different, and students outside the cordoned off area were in danger or might have been in danger, we would've contacted everyone."

"The text messages [through e2Campus] are a good tool, but might be underutilized," said Cogner.

In the situation in Gorham, no one was injured, but students have been asking what would've happened if the incident had occurred on-campus instead of in an off-campus location.

"Luckily everything ended up working out and no one was hurt," said Wright. "It would have been terrible to have something like what happened at Purdue happen here."

USM Public Safety officers participate in annual training with other local law enforcement for active shooter situations. Over the summer, the department held drills in Bailey Hall on the Gorham campus along with officers from the Gorham, Scarborough and Windham police departments.

"We have a lot of resources to draw from for a small agency," said Cogner. "Personnel-wise and networking-wise, we're in a good place to respond to any situation. We're all in this together."

Local law enforcement trains to deal with various emergency situations using the National Incident Management System, a comprehensive, national approach to emergency situations.

"Basically, NIMS sets the standard guidelines and how to respond to emergencies. It's very structured," said Cogner. "Each situation is going to be different, but we know how to react as an agency."

Cogner said that tactical information is sensitive and cannot be released, as law enforcement cannot risk anyone planning a crime being aware of law enforcement's protocol for responses. There is a document on the Public Safety website listing what students should expect from them, as well as what a student should do in case an active shooter situation arises.

"It's a lot of stuff that you're going to read and go, 'oh, that's so basic,' but it's worth taking the time to read," said Cogner.

Cogner also said that the department hopes to work with other departments at the university to include this information more regularly, specifically at student orientations, and are working to develop and release a short video to inform students of how to remain safe.

"We're in a good place," said Cogner, "and we're working to be in an even better position."

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From **DIVEST** on page 3
tal science double major Meaghan LaSala. LaSala is one of the active members with the campaign to Divest USM.

The group has a simple game plan: bring the facts, support from faculty, staff and organizations on campus and throughout the UMS, and ask that the UMS divest. “We will be addressing the impacts divesting will have on our futures and the environment as well as the financial and enrollment benefits of divesting,” said SanGiovanni.

“Right now, the fossil fuel industry is planning to extract more than five times the amount of carbon that scientists predict we can safely extract,” said LaSala. “It is unacceptable that USM is profiting off of a system that is about to drive us over the climate cliff.”

“If the University of Maine System is an institution investment for our future, why are they simultaneously investing in companies that will make this a hard future to live in?” asked Shaun Carland, a junior math and computer science double

major and the director-founder of the Students for Environmental Awareness and Sustainability.

“From an economic viewpoint it’s smart to divest,” he said. But there is still more research to be done on how economically feasible it will be to divest in the long run, but according to Carland there’s a lot already that says a fossil fuel free energy system can have perform just as well as one with fossil fuels.

“Six universities have already divested, including two in Maine: Unity College and College of the Atlantic,” said Carland. A number of institutions, communities and even full cities across the country are on the list of those currently divesting from fossil fuel companies. The group hopes to be able to add USM and the other University of Maine schools to that list of those committed to divest.

The group is hopeful, though. The movement has been gathering support from both the USM and Orono campuses via petitions, personal statement and a photo campaign with students and fac-

ulty. Last year the group proposed divestment, so this will not be the first time the Board of Trustees has heard mention of the movement. On her own hopes for the outcome of this meeting, LaSala said, “I hope that the investment committee will make the right decision and vote to divest our endowment, and re-invest in sustainable, socially responsible alternatives.”

“Even if they say no, we demand that they create a panel and working group to put together a plan for how we’re going to divest,” said Carland.

When contacted for comment, University of Maine System Public Relations Manager Peggy Leonard was unable to discuss the subject in time for publication.

The meeting with the Board of Trustees will be held on February 27, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Bangor. There will be a room at USM reserved where people may observe the meeting via video conference.

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In Brief...



UMF goes green, turns towards natural gas

As a part of a series of environmentally and financially motivated projects in heating an energy across the University of Maine System, the UMS Board of Trustees approved a proposal from the University of

Maine at Farmington to enter into an agreement to have natural gas delivered to the school, and to enter into any other agreements necessary to make the school’s infrastructure able to run on natural gas instead of oil.

So far, the natural gas line only runs as far as a town nearby Farmington, and not into the town of Farmington itself, so it will take some time to implement the plan, said University of Maine System Public Relations Manager Peggy Leonard. According to the proposal document which was voted on by the board, however, the switch to natural gas should save the university \$4 million over the course of 10 years, as appraised by outside energy specialists. The investment required to outfit UMF so that it can use natural gas are expected to cost between \$2 million and \$4 million.

The environmental benefits of the switch to natural gas are also

listed in the proposal, which says that, “the use of natural gas is estimated to reduce UMF’s carbon emissions by approximately 28 percent per every unit of heating oil that is displaced by natural gas. This is the equivalent of removing approximately 60 passenger cars from the road for every 100,000 gallons of heating oil that is displaced by natural gas, according to published EPA carbon equivalency calculators.

“The campuses [of the UMS] are looking for other options for energy,” Leonard said, noting that UMF also has geothermal wells on campus, and that, as part of the initiative UMF submitted its proposal under, the University of Maine at Augusta has submitted a plan which has been approved, and the University of Maine at Machias has a proposal under construction.

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Police Beat

*Selections from the
USM Department of
Public Safety police log
Jan. 24 to Jan. 27*

Friday, Jan. 24

Not the university's way

1:57 a.m. - Summons for marijuana possession issued to Amanda V. Balsmo, 18, of Gorham. – Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Doubly possessed

2:24 a.m. - Summons for possession of alcohol by a minor and useable amount of marijuana issued to William D. Weaver, 20, of Gorham. – Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Unusual verb activity

10:25 a.m. - Unwanted subject trespassed (added to a trespass list) from campus. – Dickey Wood Hall, 17 University Way, exterior.

“An injury to one is an injury to all!”

11:18 a.m. - Personal injury report taken. – Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Science in action

1:30 p.m. - Reported fire in a classroom. Portland Fire Department responded. – Science Building, 70 Falmouth St.

Brains of the operation

4:13 p.m. - Motor vehicle warning issued to operator. – 98 Bedford St.

Impossibly criminal

10:09 p.m. - Report of a possible criminal trespass, unable to locate. – Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Drive

Where the sidewalk ends

10:34 p.m. - Warning to operator for operating on sidewalks. – Payson Smith Hall, 96 Falmouth St.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Sharing is caring

1:04 p.m. - Multiple summonses issued for alcohol violations. – Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

Be a star!

3:58 p.m. - Warning for failure to dim headlights. - Gorham Campus

Comedy of errors

8:41 p.m. - Warnings for plate light and failure to change address. – Bedford St. at Surrenden St.

An officer and a gentleman

9:05 p.m. - Wellbeing check handled by officer. - Brooks Student Center, 32 University Way

Sunday, Jan. 26

Cooperation staycation

10:24 a.m. - Provided assistance to Residential Life staff. – Dickey Wood Hall, 17 University Way

Happily ever after

12:23 p.m. - Reported missing juvenile, cancelled en route. Child located and returned to parents. – Ice Arena, 55 Campus Ave.

Unwell by default?

2:53 p.m. - Wellbeing check on an individual, unable to locate individual. – Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Monday, Jan. 27

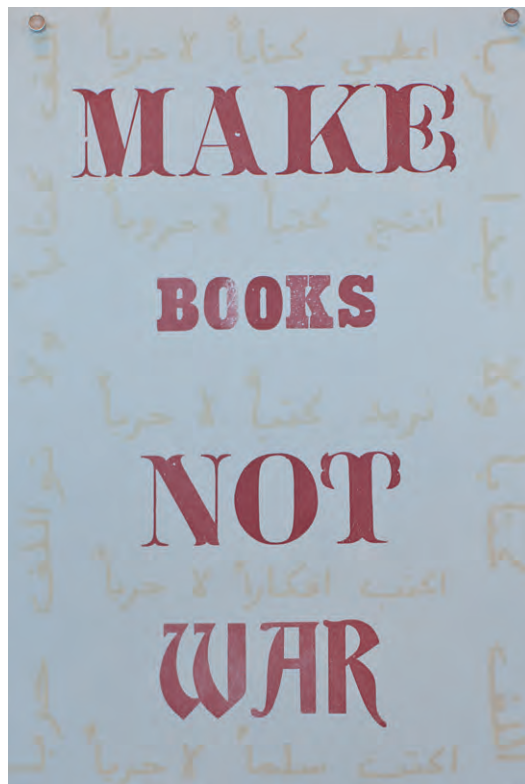
Who needs math anyway?

2:45 p.m. – Subject removed from library. – Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.

Arts & Culture

Solidarity formed through literary arts



Randy Hazelton/ Multimedia Editor

(From left to right) International poet Meena Alexander's short poem "Fragment, In Praise of the Book" is contorted into a sphere at the artistic design of collaborator Jesseca Ferguson. A letterpress made by contributors Sara Bodman, a printer, and Nadia Chalabi, a calligrapher, whose simple yet powerful statement embodies the message of the entire exhibition. Artist Nancy Bardos' response to the attack in the form of a book cover spun from Uruguyan wool, entitled "We Shall Always Return."

Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts on display in London, Cairo and USM

Francis Flisiuk
Arts & Culture Editor

Seven years after a car bomb exploded in Iraq, killing 30 people, wounding over 100 and destroying the entire perimeter of Al-Mutanabbi street the cultural epicenter of Baghdad, a powerful art exhibition has arrived at USM entitled *Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here* that displays the significance of what happened on that day through visually impressive pieces of literary art.

Literary art, which can include everything from poetry and stories to calligraphy-laden broadsides (a large sheet of paper printed only on one side) was always the main focus of Al-Mutanabbi street. For centuries the street in downtown Baghdad was the bookselling center of the whole country and served as a hub for writers and literary artists to meet, exchange intellectual ideas and foster creativity. The suicide attack, for which no group has claimed responsibility, destroyed thousands of books, poetry and other literary works of art not just from Iraqi culture, but from around the world. *Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here* aims to bear witness to the attack and to create a sense of solidarity between creatives, writers and artists everywhere.

The exhibit includes over 130 letterpress-printed broadsides, an anthology of writing, and 260 artists' books that make up a varied collection of personal responses to the attack on Al-Mutanabbi Street. The exhibit has made its way to USM's Reading Room on the 7th floor of the Glickman library after being split into three parts, the other two of which are on display

in London and Cairo and feature works from over 500 contributors in 20 countries.

The pieces themselves can be described as a whole as imaginative uses of typography, parchment, and book cover designs that capture the creative spirit that

"It's not a memorial art project; it's a living breathing project."

-Beau Beausoleil
Artist and Curator of the
Al-Mutanabbi Starts Here
Exhibition

once flowed through the hands of Al-Mutanabbi streets artists and book merchants.

According to Beau Beausoleil, a poet, bookseller and visionary behind the exhibit, the literary art pieces represent the intellectual community of Iraq, while also bridging the cultural gap that over a decade of war has created. For Beausoleil, the project isn't meant to be viewed as your standard art exhibition.

"It's not a memorial art project; it's a living breathing project," said Beausoleil. "You cannot begin to heal unless you understand your wounds."

Beausoleil believes these wounds are not just from the direct physical attack on a group of innocent people, but the removal of a

space where people had the freedom to exchange ideas through literature and art. This project hopes to convey the importance of sharing a cultural space despite political differences.

Beausoleil found the motivation to start this project when he first heard about the Al-Mutanabbi bombings and was shocked when after ten days there was no significant cultural response from the attack. Being a fellow bookkeeper and purveyor of the arts, the attack struck a personal chord with him, and he felt that he needed to respond.

"I immediately knew as a poet that it was my cultural community that had been attacked," said Beausoleil. "As a bookseller, if I lived in Iraq, I would be on that street."

According to Beausoleil, an assault on culture is an assault on the world, and in some metaphorical way we share the same street as the Iraqi Al-Mutanabbi.

"This was an attack on us all," said Beausoleil.

To bridge the cultural gap and help create a more accurate view of the Iraqi intellectual community that wasn't tainted by political propaganda, Beausoleil initially sent out a call to poets and artists to send in work for a memorial reading at the San Francisco Public Library, and received 43 visual responses in the first month. After a growing rise in interest and a few successful collaborations the project expanded in 2010 and included 130 letterpresses that featured emotional and evocative responses to the attacks from several international artists.

The artists uses books and pages combined with text and illustra-

tions as a platform for addressing issues," said Beausoleil. "They often work in parts of their own life as well. It becomes a personal statement, something that will sink in very deeply."

One work entitled "Ink and Blood" by Cathy Deforest reads

"Through art we can clear a space between us and the Iraqi cultural community."

-Beau Beausoleil
Artist and Curator of the
Al-Mutanabbi Starts Here
Exhibition

on its first page, "In dedication to imagination: we are all descendants of Al-Mutanabbi."

The pieces are all reminiscent of the diversity of content that was once available any given day on Al-Mutanabbi street. There are poems, anecdotal stories, typography and even a book cover with a broken mirror inside the frame, giving off the illusion of a victim's reflection. Some pieces are even designed to feel like they came out of the explosion themselves with text sprawled out on half burnt and scattered pages, for a eerie level of immersion.

"I want people to struggle with the art and be uncomfortable with it in the best sense," said Beausoleil.

According to Beausoleil, the

pieces force us to think about the commonality between a small street in Baghdad and our own cultural streets, and furthermore, they can bring us to the realization that the Iraqi people have lives very similar to our own.

"Through art we can clear a space between us and the Iraqi cultural community," said Beausoleil. "One day we will win their respect and trust, and they will step into that space, and we can work together."

Rebecca Goodale, the program coordinator for the Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for Book Arts here at USM thinks it's a thrill for students to be able to experience this exhibit and get a chance to meet some of the artists.

"I believe that the outpouring of the participants and their talent and thoughtfulness will impress those who attend," said Goodale.

The exhibition is on display here at USM from now until May 1 and will also include a panel discussion on Feb. 5 with Jesseca Ferguson, Anna Wexler and Stephanie Stigliana, Boston-based artists who contributed to the project. They are part of a large network of international voices and artists who have come together with this exhibition to connect the world through literary art and help people realize that Al-Mutanabbi street doesn't just start in Baghdad, it starts here.

"Al-Mutanabbi street isn't just half a world away," said Beausoleil. "If there is a bookstore, a university, or a cultural institution, that's where it starts."

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@FrancisFlisiuk

Arts & Culture Recommends: USM presents Doubt

Courtney Aldrich
Staff Writer

This week four USM students will take on the Portland Stage in a production of *Doubt*, the 1960s drama set in St. Nicholas', a New York catholic school.

“This cast is itching for an audience.”

-Ashley Rood
Junior theatre major

A Pulitzer-prize winning stage play written by John Shanley will be under the direction of USM professor of theatre William Steele.

Amidst the aftermath of Kennedy's assassination, the small Catholic school is faced with challenges to their traditional conservatism. Sister Aloysius, played by junior theatre major Ashley Rood, believes there is reason to suspect the molestation of Donald Muller St. Nicholas' first African-American student

Sister Aloysius suspects that parish priest, Father Flynn, played by sophomore theatre major, David Bliss has committed such a crime. Aloysius thinks this because of a one-on-one meeting between Flynn and the boy. Flynn insists that he was disciplining Donald for drinking altar wine. As the accusations continues, the stakes are raised, each character battling their stories to the point where the audience begins to doubt them both.



Photo courtesy of USM Theatre Department

(From left to right) Junior theatre major Ashley Rood, sophmore theatre major David Bliss, and senior theatre major Hannah Perry rehearse a scene from *Doubt*, a show full of suspicion, paranoia and accusation.

Appearing in her nonmusical, Ashley Rood has enjoyed the opportunity to experience the closeness of a small cast that is apparently, “itching for an audience,” said Rood.

Junior theatre major Pamela Smith, who plays the role Mrs. Muller (the mother of the molested child) describes the characters as intimate, and strategically so. “The playwright hit it on the head,” said Smith.

Both the bare bones cast and set design align with Shanley's original intent for the show. The charm of the parish priest and the

seemingly 100 percent certainty of Sister Aloysius convictions against the priest are opposing forces that create the doubt.

The African American student that Sister Aloysius believes was molested by Father Flynn is interesting eliminated from the casting list and stage altogether. The decisive exclusion of the boy from the casting list allows the show to approach a more mature audience with intensity.

“If the kid was in the production, you'd be able to tell based on his actions whether or not I [Father Flynn] was guilty,” said

Bliss.

The performances will take place at Portland Stage Studio Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb 8 at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday show on Feb 9 will be at 5 p.m. *Doubt* will continue to play the following weekend.

For more information about the show, times and ticket pricing visit the USM Theatre Department website at www.usm.maine.edu/theatre.

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In Heavy Rotation

What caught the eyes and ears of our staff this week.



Red Barrels

Outlast/
Red Barrels Games

This game has redefined the horror video game genre for me. I've never jumped out of my seat as much then during this play-through. You play as a journalist exploring Mount Massive Insane Asylum armed with only your night vision camera. When you begin to uncover the atrocities within, nothing prepares you for what happens next.

-Francis Flisiuk
Arts & Culture Editor

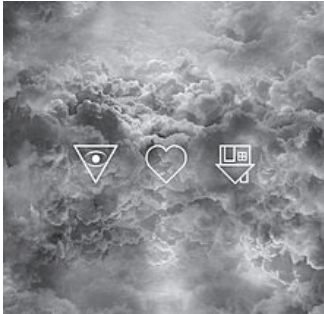


Lab'oratoire/Undercover

Laura Stevenson and
the Cans / Wheel

All of the lyrical cleverness and raw emotion of Laura Stevenson's earlier work, but with a bit of a lighter touch musically, *Wheel* will only make you want to cry a little bit, and the rest of the time will be toe-tapping, morosely-humming-along fun!

-Sidney Dritz
News Editor



Columbia Records

Sweater Weather /
The Neighborhood

I'll be honest. I only started listening to this album because the opening of the song “Sweater Weather” sounds a lot like “The Way You Move” by Outkast. But, after my investigation, I let it play through on Spotify and thought it was a killer mood album. Great new addition to my library.

-Sam Hill
Managing Editor



Valentines are a right,
♥♥ not a privilege! ♥♥

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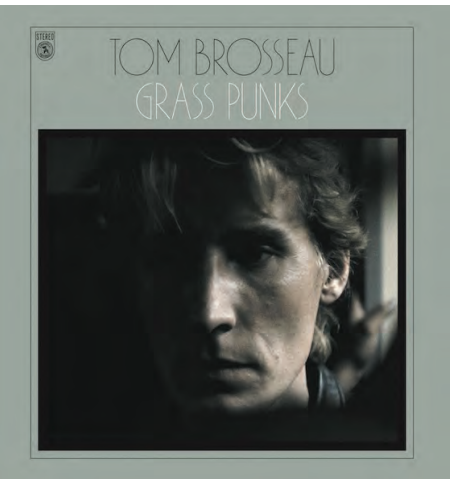
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National Review

Brosseau brings new spin to folk



Crossbill Records

Dan Kelley
Staff Writer

Grass Punks, released by Tom Brosseau, questions the imperatives of American folk, yet it is still able to pay dear respect to the timeless genre.

Folk music has always been an elusive term—world music played by lower socioeconomic classes, artists from the ‘60s folk revival (e.g., Bob Dylan, Joan Baez), and more recently, bands like The Milk Carton Kids have all been pigeonholed into the ever-expanding genre.

Although Tom Brosseau sounds significantly different from all of these acts, most people still would say he plays folk music, whatever that means.

Looking specifically at *Grass Punks*, layered acoustic guitars are paired with vocals. Mandolin and electric guitar play occasional supporting roles but are not the central focus. Its harmonies are relatively simple, giving every chord equal worth. Lyrics are thoughtful but also pay respect to the value of subtle novelty.

“Cradle Your Device,” for example, opens the album by stating “You’re stuck inside a bidding war / You’re arguing over price / You hardly even acknowledge my existence / When you cradle your device.” This song’s meaning, having to do with the ironic communication issues brought on by the digital age, brings up a serious issue in a light-hearted context.

A three-chord pop progression driven by a thumping shuffle rhythm is layered with high-pitched chords that are strummed and finger picked. This tune could be mistaken to be another blithe love song, if one doesn’t pay careful attention.

“Tami,” Brosseau’s unique way of describing a past love affair, is equally as creative. While the guitar parts here could be compared to that of Leo Kottke, the vocals are more like Lou Reed or even Radiohead. However, Brosseau’s sound still stands out. “I Love to Play Guitar,” happy and relaxed, rounds out the album which most musicians can appreciate, substituting “guitar” for any other instrument.

What exactly makes *Grass Punks* folk? As consistent with almost all other acts classified as belonging to the genre, simple sincerity. All of its tunes are presented at face value. Stripped-down instrumentation is used as a direct means to deliver a message.

The direct message, therefore, seems to be the most pervasive quality in folk. It is abundantly clear, with *Grass Punks*, that Brosseau is able to convey a simple and honest message by way of only acoustic guitar and voice.

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National Review

Drop the bass and add some funk



Lowtemp

Francis Flisiuk
Arts & Culture Editor

The Age of Reason defies standards in electronic music albums featuring 15 dynamic tracks that are rich in innovation and variety.

The Slovenian born DJ Gramatik, whose real name is Denis Jasarevic, has been busy creating his own record label Lowtemp and crafting this gem of an album that’s been released after much anticipation.

The Age of Reason is one of those rare albums that’s almost impossible to describe as a whole because of the extreme variance in each track. Gramatik mixes big beats with only the best sounds from a wide range of genres like electronic, funk, soul, glitch hop, house and even a little jazz for an album stocked with tunes to fit any occasion, but all head-bob worthy. The only commonality that can be found amongst these catchy and diverse tracks is that they are all very easy to listen to. The variety and natural sounding quality makes this the kind of album you can dance to, work to, drive to, even study to.

While it seems like the album is suffering

from a bit of identity crisis from the impressively different styles in each track, half the fun is just anticipating what you’ll hear next by skipping around on the album. Gramatik’s strength is in his versatility as an artist to include classic piano and guitar sounds, with hyper kinetic beats for a seamless blend of both old and new. “You Don’t Understand,” the second single on the album, starts off with a smooth funk guitar riff but then progresses into a more futuristic mix that could only be described as elegantly filthy. *The Age of Reason* is a refreshing step in the right direction for electronic music, straying away from the muddled vocals on top of overly aggressive dubstep bass wobbles that has become trendy in the past few years. These tracks won’t give you the dubstep headache that most mainstream DJs and bands often do.

“Torture” is a must-listen featuring vocals from Eric Krasno, which features lush electric beats paired with an infectious guitar riff that’s reminiscent of The Black Keys. And if the work of Gramatik alone wasn’t enough, a lot of tracks feature the production collective of Exmag, which includes other top-notch producers, such as SuperNicer, Mike Iannatto, and ILLUMNTR.

This is an album that embraces the fresh and energetic feel of electronica but with plenty of nostalgic nods to a funkier more soulful style. *The Age of Reason* is a distinctively unique spin on electronic music that benefits from its hybrid quality of blending fresh beats with classic instrumentals. *The Age of Reason* is an electronic game-changer. Oh, and don’t go rushing to the nearest record store to grab a copy, because Gramatik is offering his entire album free to download through his Soundcloud page.

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STATE THEATRE



FEB 5



FEB 7



FEB 9,10



FEB 15



FEB 16

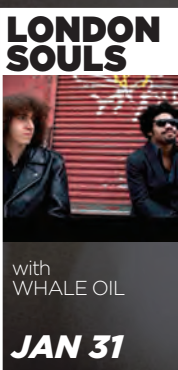


FEB 18

- FEB 19 BIG GIGANTIC
- FEB 26 BOB WEIR/RAT DOG
- MAR 4 BRETT DENNEN
- MAR 7 THE MACHINE
- MAR 11 THE GLITCH MOB
- MAR 24 EXCISION
- MAR 25 JAKE SHIMABUKURO
- MAR 27 SLIGHTLY STOOPID
- MAR 28 JOHN PRINE
- APR 26 ALL TIME LOW
- APR 28 BILL BURR
- MAY 9 THE MAVERICKS

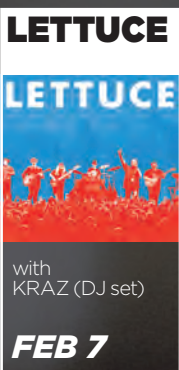
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FEB 7



with Odesza

FEB 8



FEB 14



with THEODORE TREEHOUSE

FEB 21

- 2/25 DOPAPOD
- 2/27 IRATION
- 2/28 DELTA RAE
- 3/2 WOOD BROTHERS
- 3/7 NO. MISS. ALL STARS
- 3/8 SCOTT IAN
- 3/11 HOUNDMOUTH
- 3/12 ISLANDS
- 3/13 KUNG FU
- 3/15 START MAKING SENSE
- 3/20 ASSEMBLY OF DUST
- 3/21 KG FREEZE
- 3/23 ED KOWALCZYK

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A&C Listings

Monday, February 3

2004 MECA Painters: 10 Years Later
Maine College of Art
522 Congress St.
Opening 12:00 pm

Tuesday, February 4

Caroline Cotter
Blue
650 Congress St.
Show: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 5

Think and Drink Community Event
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Show: 6:00 pm

Irish Music Night
Blue
650 Congress St.
Show: 7:00 p.m.

Spank! Harder! A Fifty Shade Parody
State Theatre 609 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 6

Jason Anick Presents: Tipping Point
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

12 O’Clock Boys Film Screening
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 7

Okbari with bellydancers
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 6:00 p.m. / Show: 7:00 p.m.

Garnet Rogers
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

First Friday Art Walk
Downtown Portland
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday, February 8

Emancipator Ensemble
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 9:00 p.m.

Chris Klaxton Jazz
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 10:00 p.m. / Show: 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 9

Banff Mountain Film Festival
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Doors: 6:00 p.m. / Show: 7:00 p.m.

JD Samson & Men
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Film Review

Streep vs. Roberts in “August: Osage County”



Smokehouse Pictures

Martin Conte
Contributor

It’s every movie buff’s guilty pleasure. It’s like getting wine tipsy, or treating yourself to dinner just before the rent is due. Putting some of the finest actors and actresses currently at work in the same dilapidated mansion, alongside the finest actress of any generation and shaking up the bottle with crisis after crisis until each of their heads explode, all in the exquisitely graceful hands of a fearlessly romantic director, makes *August: Osage County* the treasure to film buffs that it is.

Set in the plains of Oklahoma, Violet Weston (Meryl Streep) is the recently widowed, pill-popping, violently critical matriarch who watches with a masochistic pleasure as the lives of each of her three daughters disappoint her in just the way she expects each to. The family grieves the loss of the father figure Beverly (Sam Shepard), who is romanticized and, as the only absent one, appears to be the only one with any sort of dignity left to him. They all eventually look to the oldest sister, Barbara

(Julia Roberts) for guidance, and she slowly bends to the same low as her mother, as each new calamity is laid upon her. The Westons are hicks in purest form: politically incorrect, drinkers, smokers and each an unflinching survivor. But the Westons are also poets, writers, readers and lunatics; allusions to Greek mythology and literary figures run rampant through the film. The film opens with Beverly delivering a line from T.S Eliot: “Life is very long.” Later, his daughter will reprise the line with “Good thing we can’t see the future. If we did, we’d never get up in the morning.” And throughout the film, there is the incessant presence, in the disastrous wake of Bev’s death, of a line Barbara will return to again and again: “Now what?”

Much can be said about the constraints of this film. Each character feels the need to show their emotions on their sleeve; no one holds back, even when we expect them to. Everyone must face some seemingly unbearable crisis, each of which in any other film would stand alone as the tipping point. Put them together, and you begin to wonder if this isn’t just the apocalypse of all family disasters.

But in this visceral plot of revenge, and incest and anger and disgust and cruelty and killer instinct, each performance comes to a head in a sweep of brilliant character acting. Each family member is given the chance to grapple with the decay of land and life, to face the bodies in the closet, and we’re left wondering how many will survive. A good half of the film is delivered in high decibel, as screaming matches erupt every five minutes. Indeed, eventually there is a wrestling match on the living room floor. Supporting performances by Benedict Cumberbatch, Julianne Nicholson, Juliette Lewis, Abigail Breslin, and Misty Upham

shine, bouncing off each other in fits of glee and anger like the glorious image of burning ships in port. But it is Margo Martindale and Chris Cooper who shine as Violet’s sister Mattie Fae and her husband Charlie. While the family has certainly lost its way, it is only Charlie’s gentle moral compass and Mattie Fae’s rich laughter that can steer them straight.

We could write books about the magic that occurs when Meryl Streep performs, and we already have. I don’t need to tell anyone how miraculous her talent is, that effortlessly flows out of herself, into the balding, drugged up, withered shell that is Violet. But let the trumpets of Hollywood sing, for never before have we witnessed another actress who with such ferocity steals the spotlight from Streep, as Julia Roberts does in this film. The two characters go head to head, toe to toe, and the dialogue flies like medieval lances. Who can suffer more, who is stronger, who will outlast the insults of the other? Radiating all the heat of a hound from Hell, Roberts stands over the defeated Streep and shouts “You don’t get it, do you? You don’t get it? I am running things now!”

August may not be a part of the digital revolution that is changing the possibilities of film magic. Nor is it one of those films that fills your heart with inspiration—those epic, sweeping tales of American bravery or genius. But it is a film driven by sensational actors, embroiled as complicated, distraught and genuine characters, that paints a portrait of those always distant plains, where survival is still an act of kicking and screaming.

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Perspectives

Our Opinion

Policy is the problem

In our editorial last week, we brought up concerns about the safety of students in off-campus housing and university policy regarding them. Information that we found about the university's policy regarding its fraternities specifically was unclear.

Many readers were offended that we singled out this group of students, who otherwise have often been noted for their high level of involvement in the university community, but it should be stressed that last week's editorial was about policy, not people.

As recent events across the country have shown, emergencies can happen in the dorms or in the classroom, in Portland or in the off-campus fraternity houses, and regardless of where these events take place, we, as a university, need to be prepared for them. This means that we've taken long-term steps through procedure, planning and policy to prevent these events from happening and to prepare ourselves if they do.

The editorial called attention to the discrepancy in USM policy that prohibits any students on campus from carrying weapons, but that fails to extend to off-campus, university-affiliated groups such as fraternities. We urge the university to clarify the policies regarding off-campus fraternity houses and their relationship to the USM on-campus community.

Certainly, USM can't extend the reach of its policies to students living off-campus, but it can ask that

its staff closely monitor students who appear to be experiencing difficult times and offer assistance to help them find appropriate services. It is, of course, much easier to support residential students, but where do fraternities fall in this equation? Technically, these student organizations are university-affiliated and are loosely monitored by officials, but when it comes to certain policies, like USM's weapons policy, they are exempt because the University of Maine System policies dictate that "living" is not a "student activity."

The Gorham incident involving an armed student was an isolated event, but as a university, these policies need to be clarified for the safety of all students. Of course, the national chapters of both of USM's off-campus fraternities prohibit the use and storage of firearms in their houses, but should we rely on someone else to dictate our community's public safety policies?

We care deeply about the safety and well-being of our friends residing in off-campus fraternities and are glad that USM is a place where Greek Life has been so beneficial to its members and the USM community. Unfortunately, recent events may have served to negatively impacted the reputation of fraternities at USM, and clarification, or amendment to the policies regarding their relationship as part of the campus community, could only help to ensure their continued success in the future.

The Pickle Jar

Can the U.S. handle its nukes?

Recent scandals reveal irresponsibility

Dylan Lajoie
Staff Writer

It's no surprise that the United States remains at the top when it comes to its nuclear arsenal. That arsenal ballooned over the course of the Cold War, and despite the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States still maintains over 7,000 nuclear missiles, enough to blow up the whole world—a few times. Probably a little excessive.

What is surprising is the lack of competence demonstrated by officials at all levels of the U.S. nuclear program. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said himself that there is no room for error when it comes to keeping house in our nuclear program. Clearly, though, errors have been made.

In October Major General Michael Carey, who was at the very top of the U.S. nuclear program, was fired for getting drunk and womanizing on a diplomatic trip to Moscow.

Drinking on the job with that kind of responsibility probably sends the wrong message to the rest of the world, a world that is counting on us to behave like adults when it comes to handling the most dangerous weapons in on the planet. Ethics and morality aside, I'd



Ellen Spahn / Design Assistant

rather have a crack-smoking mayor than a drunken nuclear weapons commander.

Of course that's not the only scandal to rock the nuclear weapons program, and definitely not even the most dangerous one. Close to a hundred Air Force officers are now facing charges of cheating on proficiency tests. Scores from these tests are largely used to assign officers new positions and promotions. About a fifth of the officers work-

ing within the program have now been relieved of their posts, at least until this scandal can be sorted out.

You've got to wonder, if a fifth of the airmen running our nuclear program cheated their way into the program, how many are actually qualified to be even remotely close to a nuclear warhead? If our military lacks the competence to maintain a program of this stature and

See **WEAPON** on page 12



Shaun Carland
Contributor

Sustainability and ME Breaking new grounds

Anyone who has spent significant time at USM knows that coffee is a way of life. It fuels our last minute study sessions and is a perfect way to meet up with new friends. We all know where our coffee comes from—Coffee by Design, but where does it go?

Historically, the university disposed of the leftover coffee grounds in the trash, leaving between seven and nine tons of waste to accumulate per year. In 2012, the Office of Sustainability partnered with USM Dining Services to start a program that collects, recycles and reuses all coffee grounds from food service locations in Portland and Gorham. In addition to diverting almost two percent of the university's entire waste stream, recycling coffee grounds helps both the USM Dining Services and the custodial crews by providing a quick and easy way to dispose of messy wet coffee grounds.

In addition, the organic nutrients in coffee grounds make them excellent soil amendments and addi-

tives. In Gorham, coffee grounds are collected and, along with other yard waste from the campus such as grass clippings and pruned branches, go to a local operation where they are turned into loam. On the Portland campus, coffee grounds have various uses. A portion of the coffee grounds go to Garbage to Garden, a Portland based company that collects compostable organic material from residential and commercial properties for composting. Another portion of the coffee grounds are directly spread onto campus lawns, trees and mulched beds, weather permitting. Since the coffee grounds are just slightly acidic, they can begin breaking down faster and do not need to be composted. The remaining coffee grounds are distributed to the USM Community Garden.

"The USM Community Garden uses hundreds of pounds of these recycled coffee grounds to add a nitrogen component to our soil. Nitrogen is an essential element that all plants require for adequate growth. Coffee grounds also help to resist pests, disease, improve soil composition and stimulate favorable microorganisms. No more need for buying bagged soil amendments," said Jocelyn Egan,

coordinator of the USM Community Garden.

Does your office drink a lot of coffee and generate lots of used coffee grounds? The Office of Sustainability is looking to expand coffee ground recycling in academic and administrative offices across the university. Coffee ground recycling will reduce USM's waste costs while simultaneously promoting environmental stewardship. If you are interested in recycling coffee grounds at your office, contact Steve Sweeney, resource recovery supervisor, at ssweeney@usm.maine.edu or call (207) 780-4658.

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Shaun Carland is an undergrad student who works for the Office of Sustainability and is a devoted fan of coffee.

the free press

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USM benefits from Greek Life



Kelsea Dunham
Contributor

My name is Kelsea Dunham, and I am your student body president. I want to start this little piece of writing with the statement that I am not actively involved with Greek Life at USM. I still strongly believe that Greek Life is good for USM, as a whole.

When I ran for student body president I knew nothing, other than stereotypes, about Greek Life. I crashed fraternity meetings, expect-

ing hostile reactions, but not getting them. I knew a few folks involved, through my work with campus groups, but that was it. Over the last year, I've had a chance to get to know many students who are very involved with Greek Life, including the student body vice president, Marpheen Chann. Other than the incident on January 22, I have seen only good come from one's involvement in Greek Life.

My goal as student body president is to create a tighter knit community at USM, and Greek Life is just one of the many organizations on campus working to promote that ideal. The Greeks are all required to hold a GPA of 2.5, and had an average GPA of 2.91 last semester, which included doing 1023 study hours. All of our Greek organizations are also heavily involved in philanthropy and community service. Some major community service projects that Greeks are involved in are the White Cane Walk, the Autism Walk, Relay for Life, and the Fall Yard Clean Up.

Members of Greek Life are working hard to change the stereotypes associated with fraternity and sorority life. It's not all *Animal House*. In

fact, it's mostly the opposite. Greek Life is men and women creating relationships that will last a lifetime. It's helping out on campus, when and where they can. (In fact, two fraternities on campus volunteered at USM's 14th Annual Royal Majesty Drag Show and Competition. Talk about breaking stereotypes!) It's fraternities and sororities working together to create a better campus — many members of Greek Life are active in our Student Government Association, the Gorham Events Board, have participated in events with Campus Safety Project, and the list goes on and on.

I will say that I strongly believe that Greek Life in no way contributed to the incident on January 22. Just because it was a fraternity brother, at his house, does not mean it was a fraternity. It was one person.

Greek Life had 135 active members in the fall semester. Before we judge an entire organization based on one incident, I strongly suggest we look at the larger whole.

Kelsea Dunham is student body president.

From **WEAPON** on page 11

confidentiality, then I don't want them to have any program at all.

President Obama already made one jump forward when he negotiated a new START Treaty with Russia, which should eliminate a good chunk of both countries' nuclear weapons count by 2018. Despite that one stride, the United States is still slated to spend about \$700 billion on the Defense Department's nuclear program over the next ten years, according to the Ploughshares Fund, a group dedicated to ridding the world of nuclear weap-

ons, not just in one region of it, but yes, in the western world as well.

We love to focus on Pakistan and India's nuclear programs. Iran is constantly under fire from the United States for their program and tensions always seem to be running high. But maybe it's time to turn up the heat on our own nuclear programs.

Dylan Lajoie, aka Pickles, is a senior political science major with a concentration in international relations.

editor@usmfreepress.org
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Make Maine better: Vote Cutler in 2014

Marpheen Chann
Contributor

My name is Marpheen Chann, and I am the student body vice-president at USM and a college democrat. It took me a lot of thinking and some time to finally say what I have to say—that, as a democrat, I am voting for Eliot Cutler in 2014. Don't get me wrong, I like Mike Michaud, and I have considered the Democratic party family, but I am a democrat in the sense that I believe in democracy, that I have the right and the privilege to vote for who I think is the best candidate and for what I think is best for the state of Maine.

Each and every one of us, as participants in this democracy, have the right and the privilege to vote for the candidate and values we think are best for the state of Maine. To say it is not so, to say that we must vote for who we're told to vote for, is an assault upon the fundamental principles inherent within our right to vote.

This is what I believe as a democrat. This is what I believe with all my heart. That I am a catalyst for change simply because I can vote. That as a citizen, I can do what is best for the state of Maine by voting for who and what I think is best.

That is a fundamental principle of democracy and that is what Maine has been and should continue to be. Having met with Eliot Cutler and having discussed the challenges that our state faces, I have made the difficult choice, as a democrat, to support the candidate I think has the best solutions for a state with so much untapped potential.

Why has this been such a difficult choice? In part, because I have been part of the party structure and it's difficult to break away. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it was noticed when I stood with Eliot at a public event. Some in the party asked me why I would stand by this

candidate when I am a democrat? Why? Because I am voting with my conscience and a strong belief that Eliot has the best vision, the best plan, the most drive to take us away from politics-as-usual, whether that's in Augusta or gridlocked Washington, and into new territory.

We can make Maine healthier, smarter, stronger and younger. We can expand healthcare coverage for Mainers who can't otherwise afford it. We can invest in education by bringing down costs, while at the same time, making it accessible for all students by allowing Maine residents to go to state colleges and universities at no cost, but then pay back their tuition debt over the next 25 years out of their working income. We can become an economic powerhouse if we utilize Maine's undeveloped economic advantages. We can be a mecca for immigrants, families and young people if we aren't afraid of making bold decisions about our future. In fact, we must be bold if we want to make Maine a place of greater opportunity.

This year's election for governor is not only about being bold, but about not being afraid. I have heard the mantra about anyone but LePage—but what if the choice is between politics-as-usual, accompanied by the same group of political players, and a chance to do something innovative?

The year 2014 brings us all to a crossroads. There is the left, and there is the right. The answer is to move straight ahead, to move boldly forward as a people and as a state to do what is best for Maine. Eliot Cutler has a plan to bring all Mainers together, whether you're a republican, democrat or an independent. No matter who you are, in this democracy, we share a duty to vote for whom and for what we think is best for the state of Maine.

Marpheen Chann is student body vice president.

Corrections:

From the Jan. 27 issue on page 11, in the "This Week" schedule, the Men's Indoor Track Maine State Championship was listed as a home game. The event was held at Bowdoin College on Saturday.

From the Jan. 27 issue on page one, in the story "University oversight of fraternities questioned" a photo credit was misspelled. The first photo was taken by Justicia Barreiros.

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Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

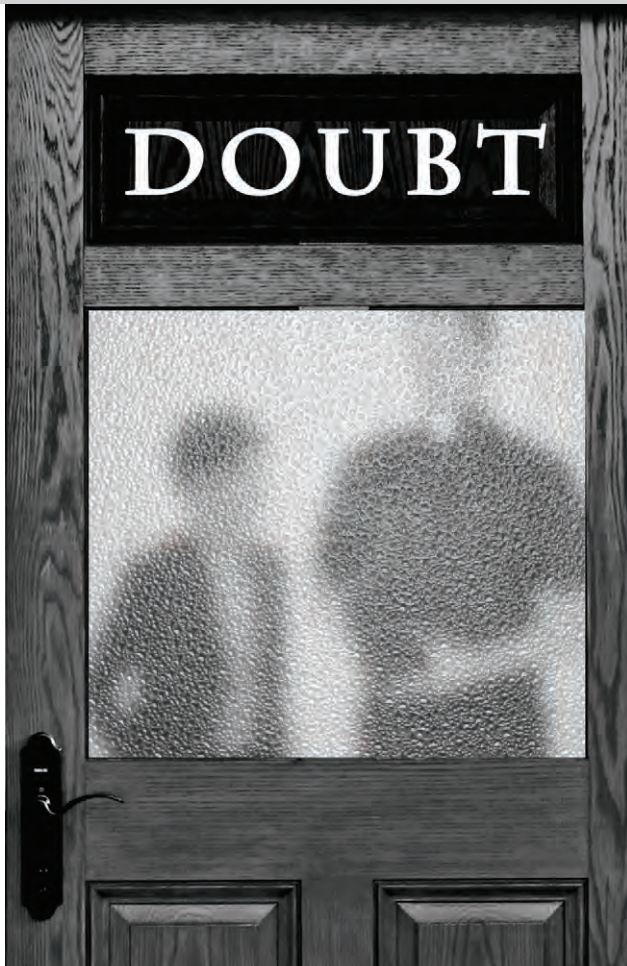
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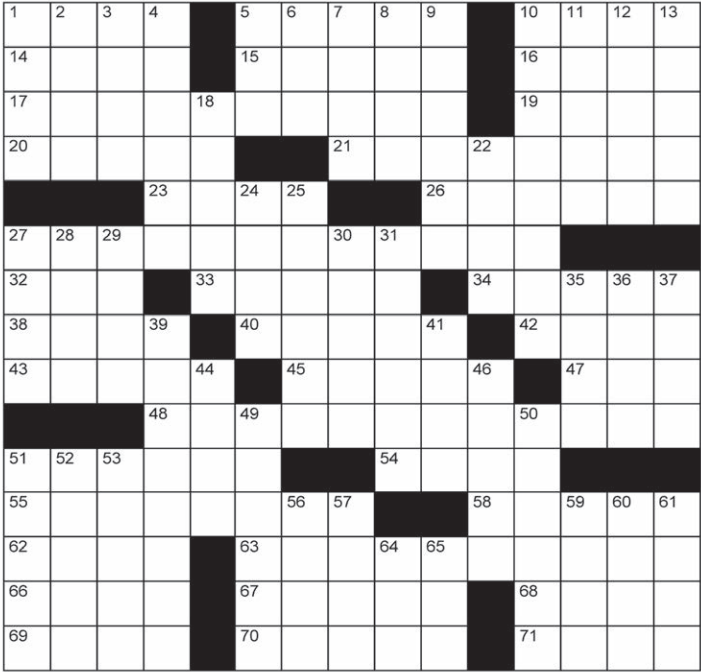


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Crossword

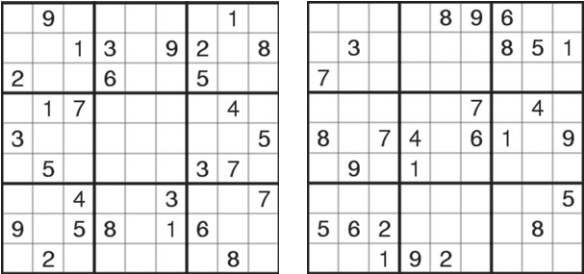
- Across
1. Teen's 'No way!'
5. Coen brothers film, '96
10. Of hearing
14. "Me here!"
15. Have ___ to the ground
16. Naldi of silents
17. Washington city
19. Chairlift relative
20. Journalist Nin
21. Dune
23. Dilbert coworker
26. Deal with gently
27. Some e-mailed news reports
32. Parent company of Lotus
33. "Stop worrying!"
34. Garden pests
38. Adam's second
40. Adhered
42. He's abominable
43. Release upon
45. First month on a calendario
47. Rapper Tone-___
48. Try to win
51. Distinguish clearly.
54. ___-ball
55. Avenger's action
58. "The way to ___ heart..."
62. Large crock
63. Cartoon Network show that debuted in 1999
66. Gender: Abbr.
67. Extra ___ attraction
68. Round bread of India
69. Celt
70. Bar aspirants' hurdles, briefly
71. Little 'un



- Down
1. Blaupunkt rival
2. Guy that Paul Simon advises to "Make a new plan"
3. ___ Mujeres (neighbor of Cancun)
4. Daughterly
5. Fee-___-fum, ogre's exclamation
6. Santa ___, El Salvador
7. Electrical units
8. Extravagant affair
9. Borneo primates
10. Furtively
11. Femur neighbor
12. Sloping type: Abbr.
13. Songstress Simon
18. Nineveh was its cap.
22. Connect the ___
24. Lyrical verses
25. Good condition
27. Radio knob
28. Clerical title
29. "___ a man with..."
30. Thin and bony
31. Too much
35. African river
36. Sporty 60's cars
37. Canine attack commands
39. Rip jaggedly
41. "Baseball Tonight" analyst John
44. "Cornflake Girl" singer Amos
46. Indian, say
49. Open, as mail
50. Solidify
51. Queen bee's mate
52. Moray pursuer
53. Better-than-average grade
56. Calculates the total
57. Clytemnestra's mother
59. "I took ___ to search for God": Carman
60. Bismarck's st.
61. 'Auld Lang ___'
64. Investigator: Abbr.
65. Cavity filler's title: Abbr.

Sudoku

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 x 9-square grid subdivided into nine 3 x 3 boxes. Some of the squares contain numbers. The object is to fill in the remaining squares so that every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box contains each of the numbers from 1 to 9 exactly once.



The solution to last issue's crossword



Cryptogram

Every letter in a cryptogram stands for another letter. Use the hint to crack the code.

LR EF PXXFULFK
AJLIRTL P GJUP
JU P ERXXFXBJZF
JZNXPSLJRZ.

And here is your hint:

F = E



Weekly Horoscope

- ★★★★★ great
★★★★ good
★★★ average
★★ alright
★ difficult

- Aries** ★★
March 21-April 19
Patience, fortitude, and follow-through are essential today. Remember to count to 10.
- Taurus** ★
April 20-May 20
A past friend has drifted away. You have little in common now; don't try to keep hanging on.
- Gemini** ★★★★★
May 21-June 20
If there is hanky-panky of any kind going on at work, you are more likely to find it today.
- Cancer** ★★★★★
June 21-July 22
Friends drop in unexpectedly or your place becomes a center of activity, chaos, and new directions.
- Leo** ★
July 23-August 22
Someone near to you is too protective or too judgmental and critical. Don't overreact. Keep your own inner emotional security.
- Virgo** ★★
August 23-September 22
Today you are balancing stability and change on the job. Vary your routines a bit, but take care of essential duties.
- Libra** ★★★★★
September 23-October 22
Playfulness is in order today, so don't get too serious. Be willing to laugh and be frivolous and you'll have a marvelous time.
- Scorpio** ★★
October 23-November 21
Your example and assumptions about partnership create images for others. Early discussion can help clarify unrealistic ideas.
- Sagittarius** ★★★★★
November 22-December 21
Feelings are thoroughly mixed with thinking today, so get comfortable with both.
- Capricorn** ★★★★★
December 22-January 19
Nesting together with the one you love is important today. Feeling comfortable and being cherished rank as high as being passionate.
- Aquarius** ★
January 20-February 18
Caring and being cared for are in focus. Take action on domestic matters, or devote energy to emotional commitments.
- Pisces** ★★
February 19-March 20
Don't try to tie anyone down. Give lovers and friends lots of freedom without possessiveness.

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Must Watch Games

Friday	Saturday
Maine Red Claws vs. Springfield Armor @ Portland Expo 7:00 p.m.	Boston Bruins vs. Ottawa Senators @ TD Garden 3:00 p.m.

USM athlete sets high goals for track nationals



Junior Kevin Desmond looks to break his record in 800 meter dash

Justicia Barreiros
Sports Editor

USM men’s indoor track student athlete Kevin Desmond has already achieved record-breaking time in the men’s 800 meter dash, but this season he has even higher goals in mind.

Desmond, junior exercise physiology major, has been running track since about ten years old, he said. He’s already accomplished a lot this season, with three school records already under his belt, but Desmond looks forward to achieving even higher goals.

At the Bates Invitational on Jan. 18, Desmond surpassed the previous USM record in the men’s 600 meter dash that was set by Parker Chipman in 2010. Desmond’s time of one minute, 21.82 seconds also qualified him for the New England Division III and the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association Championships at the end of this month.

“I wouldn’t say it was planned, but it was definitely one of the goals on my agenda for the season. I’ve been working really hard towards it,” Desmond said about his 600 me-

ter school record. “And then breaking it, I wouldn’t say it was a relief, but definitely a high moment, another accomplishment in life.”

Last week, Desmond was one of three New England area athletes to be selected as an Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III New England Track and Field Athlete of the Week. He has also been named the Little East Conference’s

“I’m currently ranked number one in the nation. Things can change, but it’s looking pretty good right now.”

-Kevin Desmond
Men’s indoor track athlete

Track Athlete of Week twice this season.

“It’s definitely an honor. It’s nice to be named twice in a row, but I have much larger goals in the picture,” said Desmond.

Desmond has two main goals for the remainder of the season—to

break his school record time in the men’s 800 meter dash with a time faster than one minute 50 seconds and place in the top three of the 800 at the National Championships. His current record time in the 800 is 1:51.70 set last February at the NEI-cAAA Championships.

“I’m currently ranked number one in the nation. Things can change,” Desmond said, “but it’s looking pretty good right now.”

Desmond isn’t the only athlete breaking records this season. Desmond also anchored the men’s 4-by-400 meter relay team that broke the school record with a combined time of three minutes, 18.09 seconds. Desmond, junior Jamie Ruginski, and sophomores Zach Miller and Jeremy Collins surpassed the previous record of 3:18.76 that was set last March. The Huskies’ 4-by-400 meter relay team is currently ranked third in the nation in NCAA Division III.

When Desmond spoke to the Free Press, he was preparing to compete in the men’s indoor track Maine State Championships that were held at Bowdoin College last Saturday.

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Athletes in Action: wrestling dual meet

(From left to right) Assistant Coach Mike Morin, seniors Kyle Gallant, Dan Suarez and Rick Chipman, (Back) Assistant Coach Julio Santiago and Head Coach Joe Pistone.

During the last regular season home dual meet, with matches against Plymouth State and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, senior wrestlers were recognized for their athletic achievements.

The Huskies downed the Plymouth State University Panthers in their first meet of the day 27-12, as junior Jonathon Deupree earned a 8-6 win in his match over a regionally ranked grappler.

Later that day, the Huskies fell 27-12 to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Engineers. Deupree won out again, scoring 6 of the Huskies 12 points in the loss, finishing the day with a 2-0 record individually.

Senior Dan Suarez also posted a 2-0 record in the dual meet.

The Huskies next meet will take place this Saturday at Rhode Island College in a tri-meet with Roger Williams.



This Week
February 4
Women's Basketball Colby College @ USM 5:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball Colby College @ USM 7:30 p.m.
February 7
Women's Indoor Track Maine Championships 6:00 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey @ Castleton 4:00 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey @ Castleton 7:00 p.m.
February 8
Men's Indoor Track Kelly Invitational @ MIT 12:00 p.m.
Women's Basketball @ UMass.-Dartmouth 1:00 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey @New England College 1:00 p.m.
Wrestling @ Rhode Island College 3:00 p.m.

Scoreboard
January 26
Wrestling USM 39 Trinity 3
Wrestling Wesleyan 33 USM 18
January 28
Women's Basketball USM 55 Mass.-Dartmouth 47
Men's Basketball USM 75 Mass.-Dartmouth 68
Men's Ice Hockey Bowdoin 4 USM 1
January 31
Women's Ice Hockey USM 0 Norwich 4
Men's Ice Hockey USM 6 U. New England 2
February 1
Women's Ice Hockey USM 4 St. Michael's 2
Women's Basketball USM 56 Keene State 40



Quick Hits:

The Huskies' week in review

Justicia Barreiros
Sports Editor

Women's Basketball USM beats UMass. Boston 55-47

USM's women's basketball team quickly took the lead in the first half with a score of 29-21 at half-time. Boston played hard in the second half but was unable to keep up with USM. Junior forward Rebecca Knight and sophomore forward Megan Pelletier led the team in points with a combined 23 points. This win puts the Huskies at 12-6 overall, and at 5-3 in the Little East Conference. Their next game is at home against Colby this Tuesday.

Men's Ice Hockey Bowdoin beats USM 4-1

The men's ice hockey team suffered a hard 4-1 loss to Bowdoin College. Bowdoin started the game with two quick back-to-back goals three minutes into the first period. Sophomore forward Tyler Simmons scored USM's only goal in the third period but was answered by two ad-

ditional goals from Bowdoin. Freshman goalie Dylan Wells saved 39 of the 43 shots on the goal. This loss bought USM to a record of 4-11-5 with a 13 game winless streak.

Men's Basketball USM beats UMass. Boston 75-68

The men's basketball team broke their eight-game losing streak with a huge 75-68 win over UMass. Boston. Four USM players scored in the double digits to give the huskies the advantage over Boston. Sophomore guard Cole Libby finished the game with six assists, five rebounds, a steal and a team high 18 points. This win improves USM's record to 6-12 overall and 2-6 in the Little East Conference. Their next game is at home against Colby this Tuesday.

Women's Ice Hockey Norwich shuts out USM 4-0

The women's hockey team gave up two goals to Norwich in the first period. USM was

unable to sneak a goal past Norwich's defense. Norwich scored one of each of their additional two goals in the second and third periods respectively. Junior goalie Liz Bergstrom saved 29 shots on goal. This loss brought USM to a record of 9-10-1 overall and 6-5 in their league. USM will play next at Castleton this Friday.

Men's Ice Hockey USM defeats UNE 6-2

The men's ice hockey team broke their 13 game winless streak against UNE this past Friday. Down by one goal after the first period, USM came back in the second period and put up four goals. While holding a tight defense, USM kept UNE scoreless during the second and third periods. USM scored their sixth and final goal of the game in the third period, bringing the final score to 6-2. The win improved USM to 5-11-5 overall and 4-8-2 in the league. USM will play next at Castleton this Friday.

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USM COMMUNITY PAGE



Jen Smith
Staff Writer

Aaren Rivard has been lighting up stages at USM since he decided to study at USM to make music performance his career.

Rivard, a senior vocal performance major, considered attending Colby College, the Boston Conservatory and the Juilliard School, before deciding to attend USM's department of music.

Graduating from high school in South China, Maine, where he is from originally, Rivard struggled to decide whether to teach or to perform music. As time passed, however, he realized that performing was his future.

Since that time he's performed at USM and in Portland. As one member of a quartet that sang in the November showing of Mozart's *Requiem*, a collaborative performance that featured the University Chorale, the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra and students from five high schools, Rivard took to the stage at the Merrill Auditorium in the show under the direction of Professor of music and choral studies Robert Russell.

The experience of performing in the Merrill Auditorium affected him deeply. "I had performed in choruses there before, but this was something different. Being able to work with other singers in a quartet and have a more intimate mu-

sical experience was special," he said.

Rivard praises his experience studying music at USM. "I think the music program is fantastic and is somewhat underrated. Having met many professional musicians, those here are on par with others in the music field," Rivard said. He added that two USM alumnae, Ashley Emerson and Megan Marino, have even performed at the Metropolitan Opera's performance of Richard Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (*The Woman without a Shadow*) that finished its run in November.

He said that his voice teacher, Ellen Chickering, associate professor of voice at USM, has greatly influenced him. "She's a second mother to me. She doesn't just ask about the music I'm working on—she has a genuine care for me, individually and musically."

When asked how he has grown musically, he explained, "Being immersed at USM, my appreciation for opera and music in general has grown exponentially through looking at different ways music is performed."

His future goal is to support himself through only singing, without needing a second job. "My goal is not to sing at the Met, but if I get there, I'd love it. I want to sing in opera houses with successful singers and with amazing directors and powerful conductors."

According to Rivard, his five-year plan is to be either in



Patrick Higgins / Staff Photographer

Germany studying or working, or he will still be studying in the U.S. to attain an artistic diploma, which he would get after first completing a master's degree in music performance.

But his goals extend beyond his studies. "I'd love to sing under Plácido Domingo [Spanish conductor and tenor], having him as a mentor or as a director." He would also like to sing in the opera with soprano Joyce DiDonato, American operatic mezzo-soprano. "She has a

passion for opera that translates on the stage, and being next to her would be incredible."

"One of the reasons I enjoy coming to classes and decide not to stay in bed is that I'm excited to hear what the professors have to say that day," he said. "Some professors care so much that they make the most mundane things interesting," Rivard said.

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Campus Events

Monday, February 3

Husky Career Week: #UseSocialMedia
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Husky Career Week: Ra-Ra Résumé
1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Husky Career Week: Ace the Interview
2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Puzzle Piece Rush
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Husky Hut, Brookes Student Center, Gorham

Tuesday, February 4

Mindfulness Group
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Room, Sullivan Recreation and Fitness Complex, Portland

Out & Allied Auditions
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Talbot Lecture Hall, Luther Bonney, Portland

Wednesday, February 5

USM Career Fest
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Panel Discussion and Exhibition Reception for "Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here"
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
7th floor, Glickman Family Library, Portland

Campfire Rush
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Room 104, Upper Class Hall

Thursday, February 6

Resume Writing for USM Veterans & Servicemembers
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
1 Payson Smith, Portland

Henry David Thoreau and His Problems, Theoretical and Practical
4:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Luther Bonney, Room 410, Portland

Friday, February 7

Board of Student Organizations Meeting
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Luther Bonney Hall, Talbot Lecture Hall, Portland

USM Celebrates Black History Month
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Shep Lee Auditorium, Wishcamper Center, Portland

Saturday, February 8

USM @ Home - Scarborough
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Scarborough Grounds - 264 Route 1, Scarborough

For more events:
www.usm.maine.edu/events



Featured Photo:



Randy Hazelton / Multimedia Editor

Junior social work major Hannah Saucier sat in a new chair in the Woodbury Campus Center in Portland after all new furniture was moved in on Friday. It was the first time the furniture had been replaced there in 29 years, and it came only after a ten-year wait. "Since freshman year I've enjoyed the student center atmosphere, and it's even better with new furniture," she Saucier. The area was emptied Thursday afternoon and decked out with the new couches, tables and chairs the following day.